

MARYLAND MILITARY INSTALLATION COUNCIL

Monday, March 28, 2022; 0830-1200

Meeting Minutes

The spring 2022 MMIC meeting was conducted in-person at the state government building at 100 Community Place, Crownsville, MD. The session included updates from the Maryland installation commanders and the Maryland National Guard, remarks from guest speakers, and updates from the alliance presidents. Total attendance was 61.

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Swoboda, Executive Director of the MMIC and Senior Director of the Maryland Commerce Office of Military & Federal Affairs welcomed attendees to the meeting, provided opening remarks with a review of the agenda, and acknowledged that MMIC Chair and Maryland Secretary of Commerce Mike Gill had to cancel at the last minute. She also introduced headstrong.org, a foundation providing counseling for active duty and veterans.

State Legislative Update

Hunter Marsh, for State Senator Will Smith, provided update on several bills pending in state legislature.

Federal Legislative Update

Spencer Knoll, Military Legislative Assistance for Senator Van Hollen, reported that the defense omnibus appropriations bill includes:

- \$40M for post-production software development at CECOM.
- \$41M for projects at the U.S. Naval Academy.
- \$21M for space launch capability upgrades at Wallops Island.
- The delegation is taking requests for FY23 funding priorities.

George Schlossberg, Partner and Chair, Federal Practice and National Security, Kutak Rock, reported on the FY23 President's budget should be released today:

- Anticipate a 4% increase to \$773B, with historically high investments in research and development.
- BRAC legislation is unlikely, but the DoD will seek additional authorities to modernize and shed excess infrastructure.

Keynote Speaker

Mrs. Patricia Barron, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy

- Ms. Barron works closely with the Defense State Liaison Office on issues such as portability of occupational licenses (Maryland is a member of the licensure compact), and the Purple Star Schools Program.
- Shared priorities include childcare as a mission-critical service, facilitating change of station issues, improving education for military families, and spousal professional license reciprocity.

- Maryland has already approved 6 of 8 licensing compacts, and the legislature is currently considering three military quality of life bills.
- April is designated the month of the military child. Childcare is considered a critical issue due to worker shortages, and the prospect of increased demand as more parents return to work and need daycare services.

Networking break 10:00-10:20

2022 Military Family Lifestyle Survey

Yolanda Rayford, Chapter Director, Baltimore Chesapeake Region, Blue Star Families

- Blue Star Families works with communities to improve quality of life for military families. The organization is very active in Maryland and adjoining states, with 4098 members in the Baltimore/Chesapeake region.
- The three top issues identified with the most recent survey are:
 - Family stress from PCS and extended TDY
 - Family financial education and readiness
 - Availability of child mental health services
- Blue Star Families advocates to state professional license portability, as well as other regional resources for military families.

Uniformed Services University of Public Health and the Center for Deployment Psychology

Dr. David Riggs, PhD., Professor/Chair Department of Medical and Clinical Psychology, and Executive Director, Center for Deployment Psychology

- USU has been providing both live and zoom training for providers for the past 6 years.
- This outreach program encompasses:
 - Extended learning opportunities for providers
 - Star Behavioral Health Improvement Program
 - Military Kids outreach
 - Rapid response to support mental health providers
 - Recently trained over 80k practitioners
 - david.riggs@usuhs.edu
- The NDAA supports increasing the number of medical and clinical psychology students, but there are currently not enough staff to support the expansion.
- USU funding is continuously threatened, in particular funding for the research program.

Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) – Maryland’s First Award

CAPT John Brabazon, Station Commander, NAS Patuxent River

Donald Mills, Deputy Director, St. Mary’s County Department of Public Works

CAPT Brabazon described the traffic and pedestrian issues at Gate 2, and acknowledged that “the fix” would be on the community side of the gate. Mr. Mills described how the community, with installation approval, competed in the DCIP to win funding for an off-post infrastructure improvement project, the first DCIP award in Maryland. The project funds a sidewalk/crosswalk to alleviate the Gate 2 issues. St. Mary’s County will provide a 20% match to the \$564,000 award.

Installation Commander Updates

Patuxent Naval Air Station – CAPT John Brabazon, Commander

- NAS Pax received the first Defense Community Infrastructure Program (DCIP) grant awarded in Maryland. The \$564,000 will enable roadwork construction by St. Mary's County to improve pedestrian and traffic flow to Gate #2.
- NAS Pax does have an active Intergovernmental Support Agreement (IGSA) with St. Mary's County.

Joint Base Andrews – Col Tyler Schaff, 316th Wing and Installation Commander

- Annual "State of the Base" is scheduled for 12 April.
- "Industry Week" is scheduled for next week.
- The Open House with Air & Space Show is scheduled for September, celebrating the Air Force 75th birthday. Expecting 10,000 children from five states for STEM/STEAM events.
- As usual, JBA is struggling with MILCON funding.
- JBA medics are still supporting COVID response activities.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Indian Head – CAPT Todd Copland, NSA South Potomac Commanding Officer

- COVID restrictions have returned to normal.
- "Staffer Day" is scheduled for 20 April.
- The installation is engaged in much compliance work with EPA.
- Quality of life issues, in particular off-base housing is a persistent problem in terms of both availability and cost/affordability.

Naval Support Activity Annapolis – CAPT Homer Denius, Commanding Officer

- A three-year \$40M renovation of McDonough Hall has begun. Athletic activities will move to other facilities for the next three years.
- The installation is engaged in an initiative with the city and county to work better together, and specifically in pursuing an OLDCC resiliency grant.
- Currently engaged in a bike path/easement project with Anne Arundel County.
- Also continuing to develop a climate resilience initiative to address rising water levels and storm surge over the next century.

Naval Support Activity Bethesda – CAPT Scott Switzer, Commanding Officer

- The installation is currently housing Afghan refugees.
- Working with PEPCO, the local utility provider, to replace aging breakers to ensure consistent and reliable power delivery.
- Currently engaged in a \$70M barracks repair and upgrade project.
- Concerned about funding and future disposition of the Uniformed Services University.

Naval Surface Warfare Center Carderock – CAPT Todd Hutchinson, Commanding Officer

- Currently have 2700 Navy civilians working on the installation.
- This year, 2022, the NSWC is hosting 21 visiting faculty and 84 interns.
- NSWC Carderock will host a STEM outreach event later in the year, featuring "STEM in a Box" for K-3 students, developed by visiting faculty using certified curriculum for schools, and providing textbooks/workbooks for these activities.

Fort Detrick – COL Danford Bryant II, Garrison Commander

- Fort Detrick laboratories continue to support research in COVID detection, avoidance and treatments.
- As COVID restrictions relax, the garrison is reopening to outside activities. The Annual Science Fair will be hybrid this year; in person next year.
- The Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC) will transfer from Army to the Defense Health Agency on 1 Oct. Expect minimal impact on the installation.

Aberdeen Proving Ground – COL Johnny Casiano, Garrison Commander

- APG installation is planning to conduct a Key Leader Symposium every six months, with a vision of “Invest in and inspire our people.” Priorities will include:
 - Leader development
 - Operationalize the garrison
 - Recruit and retain talent
 - Communications and messaging, both internal and external
- Regarding excess infrastructure, APG senior leaders are ceding 3-5% of space back to the garrison.

Fort Meade – COL Chris Nyland, Garrison Commander

- The Ft. Meade workforce is on a projected growth glide path over the next few years from 63K to 67k personnel.
 - Includes construction of two new headquarters
 - Much of the NSA workforce will be moving from off-post office space to the installation.
 - The nature of work is not conducive to telework, with a few exceptions
- The garrison is finalizing an Intergovernmental Support Agreement with Howard County for storm water management. A ceremony will recognize this as the Army’s 100th IGSA.
- The garrison is working with Howard and Anne Arundel counties on workforce development to help transitioning servicemen and family members.
- The garrison is working with the delegation to seek legislative authority to house junior enlisted in on and off-post housing, rather than barracks.
- A congressional staffers briefing and tour is scheduled for 25 April.

Coast Guard Yard – CAPT Vince Skwarek, Commanding Officer

- Currently in a \$26M ship berthing rehab project.
- The Yard is seeking support for an unfunded priority that would invest in capabilities to service the newer ships now in construction.
- Noted persistent difficulty hiring experienced shipyard workers.

Maryland National Guard – BG Adam Flasch, Joint Staff Director, MD National Guard

- The MDNG is still engaged in COVID response.
- Currently there are 6700 members.
- The Free State Challenge Program is seeking sponsors.
- With the A-10 air fame nearing the end of service life, Martin Airport will need a longer runway.
- Working with MDOT on Route 30 challenges.
- Examining MDNG facilities for excess infrastructure and multiple use opportunities.

Army Corps of Engineers – Not represented

Military Alliance President Remarks

Army Alliance (AA) – Tony Lisuzzo, President

- The “State of APG” is scheduled for 26 April.
- The Army Alliance Annual Dinner is scheduled for 6 Jun with a panel of APG speakers to discuss R&D efforts relative to the pandemic response.
- The top federal priorities are:
 - Continued funding until the legacy chemical facility destruction is complete.
 - Increased funding for laboratory revitalization.
- Thanks to the other alliances for supporting the initiative to exempt retired military pay from Maryland taxation.

Fort Detrick Alliance (FDA) – Christy Butler, Executive Director

- The Alliance is working on community engagement with National Guard members deployed to Fort Detrick.
- The Alliance is among sponsors for a 5k Ft. Detrick “shamrock” Fun Run scheduled for 18 Jun.
- The Alliance is focused on events that bring value to members, e.g., launch of a nationally accredited professional development program, partnering with Hood College.
- Also establishing an MOU with Mount St. Mary’s for a tuition discount for Alliance members, with plans to engage similarly with Hood and Frederick Community College.

Fort Meade Alliance (FMA) – Doreen Harwood, President

- The FMA currently has 6 active committees (Education/Workforce and Military Families are the largest).
- Anticipate a ribbon cutting ceremony for the Kuhn Hall Education and Resiliency Center in August. Services will be available to active duty, retired military and military family members.
- The FMA is developing a “Healthy Cooking” initiative to be offered as a service at Kuhn Hall, cosponsored with UMD Integrated Health and the FGGM Garrison.
- The Fort Meade Alliance Foundation Gala, scheduled for 9 April, is sold out at 500 seats.

Southern Maryland Naval Alliance (SMNA) – Gary Kessler, President

- There is \$1M funding available for a South Maryland workforce initiative, which will focus on critical skill fields like cyber, IT and technical specialties.
- A legislative initiatives discussion with delegation staffers is scheduled for 9-10 April.
- The SMNA annual dinner is scheduled for September in the new SMART building.

Military Alliance Council (MAC) – Pam Frank, Executive Director

- The United States Bomb Technicians, a new organization at Indian Head, recently hosted an industry day with 150+ public safety and defense contractors.
- The Bryant’s Road study will focus on potential improvements outside the gate.
- Noted an initiative to designate Route 210 as a technology corridor.

- The Alliance is looking into grant opportunities with OLDCC, and is working on a community scholarship program.

Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA) – Bob Keane, President

- The MTA is supporting the Coast Guard Yard to secure funding to increase dry dock capacity, where loads are critically overextended.
- The MTA supports workforce development at Carderock to ensure the Navy will sustain the capability to develop new warships.
- The MTA will provide support for a more robust STEM program with local schools, specifically directed at women and minorities.

Andrews Business & Community Alliance (ABCA) – Not represented

Conclusion

Ms. Swoboda thanked those in attendance for participation and staying on to the scheduled finish. She reminded commanders of the upcoming Economic Impact Study, and introduced Amy O'Donnell as the new Director for Navy Programs. She also acknowledged BGen(R) Mike Hayes for his work in establishing and managing OMFA. Expect the next MMIC to be another live event in early fall. Ms. Swoboda adjourned the session at 12:30 pm.

Enclosures:

MMIC Agenda 3.28.2022

MMIC Slides 3.28.2022

MMIC Attendee List 3.28.2022